

From: "Rhonda Cochran" <rhonda.cochran264@gmail.com>

To: "William L. Gibbons (wgibbons)" <wgibbons@memphis.edu>

Date: 3/22/2018 11:19:29 AM

Subject: Re: Crime and Shelby County Court System

Attachments: attachment 1.xlsx

Mr. Gibbons,

I have still not heard anything from the District Attorneys office and don't expect I will. Here is an email I sent to Will Lamberth in Nashville since he carried the bill that changed the Financial Responsibility Law in Tennessee in 2015:

"I have attached a spreadsheet of some 'random' cases I have pulled from Shelby County General Sessions website; GS Division 13 - Judge Louis J Montesi, Jr. I pulled around 20 cases most all having a charge of Driving While License Suspended, however, in 18 of the 20 cases the drivers were not cited for Violation of Financial Responsibility. I find it hard to believe that a person who is driving on a suspended license is carrying insurance!

I'm going to go out on a limb and say I believe Memphis Police are getting around the Financial Responsibility Law by not citing drivers for it. I don't know who has instructed them to not check it or exactly what is happening. Also, all the cases I pulled have a Final Disposition of "Nolle Prosequi".

Are police required when stopping an individual for a traffic violation to check for insurance or do they have discretion in this area as they do with whether or not to perform toxicology? Is there anything that can be done? Who do I contact? This is extremely discouraging."

Mr. Gibbons, I find this sad, to say the least! Is the Nolle Prosequi coming directly from the DA? The cases I pulled were a couple of common names, Jackson & Brown, and they all appeared before Judge Montesi. I didn't check any of the other District judges as I found this disturbing enough!

Memphis is in the shape it's in because of the poor leadership! Memphis has stopped prosecuting misdemeanors because there are so many felons! In fact, Amy Weirich has as much said this on tv in the recent past! That is NO EXCUSE to not follow the law!! Memphis is quickly becoming like Detroit and Chicago! There continues to be a large number of citizens moving out of Shelby County. I would say the majority of people leave because they are fed up with the crime and lack of leadership in the community and the government!

Last week I read a news article online that would have been laughable if it wasn't so pathetic:

<http://wreg.com/2017/06/13/das-office-sending-letters-to-people-who-commit-the-most-crime/amp/>

This is as tough on crime that she, Weirich, is going to get!

There is no need to send this to Weirich. She refuses to follow up on anything. She is a wart on the butt of Memphis!!

Best Regards,

Rhonda Cochran

PS

Just know I'm not done yet.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 11, 2018, at 7:18 PM, William L. Gibbons (wgibbons) <wgibbons@memphis.edu> wrote:

Ms. Cochran,

I've been in touch with General Weirich, and you should be hearing from her or someone in her office.

Bill Gibbons

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 10, 2018, at 9:16 AM, Rhonda Cochran <rhonda.cochran264@gmail.com> wrote:

Mr. Gibbons,

Just a follow up to my email from November. DA Amy Weirich has never been in touch with me regarding the below, Jonathan Bragg. He obviously has now run because I checked the General Sessions website this morning and the Final Disposition was set for 2/26/2018 and on 2/27/2018 a warrant was issued.

Also, today I discovered a continued pattern in Memphis/Shelby County and I tried to email the mayor and police director, Mike Rallings. Rallings email was returned as follows:

"Delivery has failed to these recipients or groups:

policedirector@memphistn.gov

Your message can't be delivered because delivery to this address is restricted."

Here is a copy of the email I sent this morning and forwarded to DA Weirich as well:

Mayor Strickland and Mr. Rallings,

Please see the below news story and a pic of the recent charges posted on the Memphis Shelby County General Sessions Court website.

Driver crashes into Ballet Memphis after running red light

<http://www.wmcactionnews5.com/story/37689521/driver-crashes-into-ballet-memphis-after-running-red-light>

<image1.png>

Why is there no charge for violation of financial responsibility?

This is not the first instance, in recent weeks, that I have come across cases where MPD or Shelby County General Session Judges have failed or refused to charge individuals for failure to maintain financial responsibility. I am curious as to why this is happening?

Regards,

Rhonda Cochran
Concerned citizen

<image2.png>

November emails regarding Jonathan Bragg:

From: "William Gibbons (wgibbons)" <wgibbons@memphis.edu>
Date: November 7, 2017 at 7:19:59 AM CST
To: Rhonda Cochran <rhonda.cochran264@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Crime and Shelby County Court System

Ms. Cochran,

I have taken the liberty of forwarding your email to District Attorney Amy Weirich. She is checking on the matter and should be in touch with you.

DA Weirich and I both share your frustration. I know this whole situation has been hard on you.

Bill Gibbons

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 6, 2017, at 2:19 PM, Rhonda Cochran
<rhonda.cochran264@gmail.com> wrote:

Mr. Gibbons,

My name is Rhonda Cochran and I am writing to you regarding an incident that happened on 10/01/2017 in Shelby County.

First, allow me to give you a little background on myself and then you will understand my interest in the incident on 10/01/2017:

My 30 year old son, James Lee Atwood, Jr., was killed in a car crash on July 1, 2014. It was a beautiful, sunny day, July 1st and Lee, my son, had stopped on his way home from work to deposit a check at First Tennessee, buy chicken at Kroger to cook for dinner and fill his tank with gas. He'd only gotten on Shelby Dr. when Roderick Maggett came across several lanes and hitting him on driver's side killing him. It wasn't even at an intersection. There were no witnesses! This was during the 'blue flu' and 500+ MPD officers had called in sick that day. Maggett was charged with 4 things, however no toxicology was done on him. The coroner performed an autopsy as well as toxicology on my son, although according to MPD Lee was not at fault in any way. Tennessee law allows police to determine by visual observation if someone is under the influence of an intoxicant and according to the police report under drugs/alcohol there was None Observed. Please bear with me a little longer.....the part that really disturbs me is that earlier that morning, Maggett was stopped by a Shelby County Deputy, Jeremy Finch, for no seatbelt and no insurance of which the no insurance was dropped. Less than 7 hours later he hit and killed my son, Lee. He continued to drive knowing he had no insurance! What good is the law requiring insurance if a person can go get it after the fact and have the ticket dismissed by a judge? In 2015, I worked with Rep Will Lamberth and then, Rep Steve McManus to have the financial responsibility law amended. The amended law is now known as the James Lee Atwood, Jr. Law.

Secondly, regarding the incident 10/01/2017:

Jonathan Bragg's license were revoked in 2015 for failure to carry insurance. He has continued to drive. I have pulled some information from the Shelby County General Sessions website on Jonathan Bragg:

Stopped 5/16/17, speeding 67 in a 40, driving while license suspended, Final Disp 6/16/17 - Nolle Prosequi Case #17712672 (See attached)

Stopped 9/18/17, violation vehicle registration, driving while license suspended, violation of financial responsibility, Report to court date of 11/13/17 Case #17722110 (See attached)

Stopped 10/01/17, driving while license suspended, violation of

financial responsibility law, Case #17023587 Disposed 10/02/17 Nolle Prosequi, he also killed a pedestrian and there is no charge showing for that. (See attached)

As far as I can determine by the online information, he is a free man. I have, also, spoken with Rev DeAndre Brown, Memphis Pastor and son to the pedestrian, JW Brown, whom Bragg hit and killed on 10/01/2017 after driving with a revoked license due to not carrying insurance back to 2015. DeAndre, advised me that there are no pending criminal charges against Bragg for the death of his father. Each time a judge has failed to prosecute or to impose the now \$300 fine for not carrying insurance. Bragg has a report to court date a week from today to answer charges from his stop on 9/18/17. I plan to sit in on this court appearance.

Shelby County has not enforced the fine for violation of financial responsibility on this guy and he has now killed someone. Had Shelby County towed his car and imposed the fine of \$300, Bragg would have not been driving his Ford Explorer to hit and kill JW Brown on 10/01/17.

There are laws, but no one will enforce them. This is what is wrong with Memphis and Shelby County. I don't know what you can do or if any of this information is of any interest to you in your new role at U of M. I wrote to Will Lamberth and he asked if I had contacted you.

Best Regards,
Rhonda E Cochran

<image1.png>

<image2.png>

<image3.png>